

Child Welfare Partners Committee (CWPC)
Meeting Notes

Thursday, March 9, 2023
In Person/Zoom Meeting

Members in attendance: Emily Blomme, Chris Koepplin, Mary Beth O'Neill, Liam Healy, Kristin Konchalski, Ana Clymer, Jana Rhoads, Janee Harvey, Linda Dettmann, Matt Majeski, Kristie Oliver, Lori Frick

Members not in attendance: Natalie Clapp, Daniel Harder, Mylene Wanatee, Chad Jensen

Summary of Meeting:

Introductions

Janee spent a few minutes introducing Service Area Manager, Jana Rhoads. Jana is replacing Matt Majeski on the committee. Janee also introduced Klaire Wisniewski who was present for the meeting. Klaire is the new Communications Specialist in the Division of Family Well-Being and Protection. Committee members went around the room and introduced themselves to Klaire and Jana.

CWPC membership & onboarding

Emily and Chris' memberships are set to expire on June 30th. Committee members discussed allowing Emily and Chris to continue serving on the committee. Committee members agreed it was best to avoid any more changes to the committee throughout the HHS realignment. The process of identifying and approving new members was also discussed.

Members discussed having an onboarding process when new members do join the committee. New members will connect with one provider and one HHS member to get an overview of what the Child Welfare Partners Committee does.

Annual Statewide Meeting Agenda

Members reviewed and discussed the potential agenda for the Statewide meeting. Instead of having one keynote speaker, members discussed possibly having a panel of speakers with prepared questions for them.

Legislative Initiatives: Coalition and HHS

Lori shared that her and Janee spoke with legislators on some focus areas, including worker retention. They informed the legislators that neighboring states offer higher salaries to their social workers and their caseloads are also lower. Lori shared that the legislators were pleased with the direction that HHS is going. Kristie shared that the Coalition has their legislative breakfast next Thursday, 3/16 from 7:30-9:00 am. She stated all are welcome to attend.

HHS efforts to address long-term stayers in shelters

Lori shared that they have been working on a document which addresses long-term stayers in shelter. She stated that it is now back with Janee and they are going to re-visit it at the upcoming Service Area Manager meeting. After the meeting, they will bring it back to providers.

Next Meeting: Thursday, April 13, 2023-1:00 PM- 3:00 PM
In person @ Hoover/via Zoom